

Committee on Dental Auxiliaries

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**Committee on Dental Auxiliaries
Public Meeting Minutes
San Francisco, California
August 22, 2007**

A public meeting of The Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (COMDA) was held August 22, 2007 at the Embassy Suites San Francisco Airport, Golden State Conference Room. Due notice had been sent to all known interested parties.

1. Call to order/Member roll call

Chairperson Shanda Wallace called the meeting to order at 1:14 PM and welcomed everyone. A quorum was established with the following members present:

Rochelle Bache, RDAEF
William Baker
Teresita Churchill, RDA
Judith Forsythe, RDA
Linda Gipson, RDH
Shanda Wallace, RDH

2. Closed Session – Discussion of personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a): Annual Review of Executive Officer

The committee went into closed session at 1:15 p.m.

3. Return to open session

The Committee returned to open session at 2:15 PM and Chairperson Wallace announced that the annual review of the Executive Officer had not been completed and discussion would resume at the end of the open agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Baker moved and Ms. Bache seconded approval of the May 30, 2007 open session minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Chairperson's Report

Ms. Wallace noted that she had discussion with COMDA staff and department personnel for clarification on issues concerning COMDA. She also noted that she was unable to attend the Summer 2007 RDH exams. Ms. Wallace sent best wishes to Lorie Kiley, a COMDA staff member who was injured while in Los Angeles to assist with administration of the August RDH exam.

6. Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Ware asked if there were any questions regarding her written report. Mr. Baker, responded to her report on un-reimbursed staff travel costs during the period without a signed budget, and asked if this was normal protocol. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Ware addressed concerns about RDH candidates who failed or withdrew from the July/August exams but would not receive results in time to meet the filing deadline for the October examinations. She stated that July/August candidates would receive results within the six to eight week time frame presented to them at the time they were examined and clarified that candidates who had adverse results in July or August would be allowed to apply for the October examinations after the published filing deadline.

7. RDA Program

Ms. Wallace reviewed reports on examination results and exam income and expenses before turning to the update on the implementation of the new vendor for computer based testing. Ms. Ware reported that after two and one-half months working with the new vendor, implementation problems were finally diminishing. Initial problems related to delays in production and mailing of the candidate handbook that is being provided by the vendor to all qualified examination candidates. Handbook issues had been resolved. She reported that subsequent issues related to individuals who registered by phone according to directions provided in the handbook, but due to computer problems were not on the appointment list when they went to the testing centers to take the examination. Substantial staff time was dedicated to handling phone calls from these applicants and facilitating their appointments with the testing vendor. She said staff indicated that these incidents were occurring far less frequently and things were improving and running more smoothly.

Ms. Wallace complimented Lorie Kiley for her progress on the RDA school applications received. Ms. Ware called attention to an error on the New Radiation Safety Course approval/denial sheet for Fast Track Dental Assisting in Newark, California. She asked to remove Pam Baldwin's name from the list of consultants that reviewed the curriculum, since Ms. Baldwin did not review the curriculum. Ms. Ware commented that a new staff position to assist with processing RDA school and course approval applications would be added to the COMDA staff when the Governor signed the budget.

Mr. Baker requested clarification on the bases for provisional approval versus full approval of RDA programs. Discussion ensued. Counsel recommended including this issue for discussion on the next agenda for a policy discussion on continuing the use of both approval designations.

Recommendation for provisional approval of the **American Career College, Costa Mesa** RDA program was moved by Ms. Bache, seconded by Ms. Gipson and carried unanimously:

Recommendation for full approval of the **Everest College, San Bernardino** RDA program was moved by Ms. Forsythe, seconded by Ms. Bache and carried unanimously:

Recommendation for approval of the **Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa** Pit and Fissure Sealant course was moved by Ms. Forsythe, seconded by Mr. Baker and carried unanimously:

Recommendation for approval of the **Foothill College, Los Altos Hills** Pit and Fissure Sealant course was moved by Ms. Forsythe, seconded by Ms. Bache and carried unanimously:

Recommendation for approval of the **Heald College, Stockton** Coronal Polish course was moved by Ms. Bache, seconded by Mrs. Forsythe and carried unanimously:

Recommendation for approval of the **Heald College, Concord** Coronal Polish course was moved by Ms. Forsythe, seconded by Ms. Bache and carried unanimously:

Recommendation for approval of the **Heald College, Hayward** Coronal Polish course was moved by Ms. Churchill, seconded by Ms. Bache and carried unanimously:

Recommendation for approval of the **California Dental Certifications, Pacific Beach** Coronal Polish course was moved by Ms. Bache, seconded by Mr. Baker and carried unanimously:

Recommendation for approval of the **Fast Track Dental Assisting, Newark** Radiation Safety course was moved by Ms. Forsythe, seconded by Ms. Bache and carried unanimously:

Discussion turned to a report regarding Western Career College in Sacramento. A recommendation to maintain site approval and to place **Western Career College, Sacramento** on probation was moved by Ms. Bache, seconded by Ms. Forsythe, and carried unanimously.

8. RDH Program

Ms. Wallace called attention to the examination overview and statistics. Ms. Ware reported that information needed to support development of regulations governing approval of RDH courses relating to the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen, administration of local anesthetic agents, and periodontal soft tissue curettage would be forthcoming from Joan Greenfield, program director at Sacramento City College. She noted that Sacramento City College presently operates the only approved CE courses on these topics.

9. Legislation

SB 534 (Perata): Committee on Dental Hygiene

The Committee reviewed documentation regarding this bill and received testimony from representatives of the California Dental Hygienists Association and the Dental Assisting Alliance. Discussion ensued. Mr. Baker moved and Ms. Bache seconded a motion to take a position of **oppose unless amended** on this bill, asking that it be amended to address the Alliance's concern that a majority of members of the proposed new Dental Board standing committee on dental assisting be dental auxiliary members of the Dental Board. The motion carried unanimously. Plans were made for Chairperson Wallace to

ask the Dental Board to take a similar position and support a joint letter to the author regarding the issue.

AB 269 (Eng): Dental Practice Act license renewal provisions

Ms. Ware updated the Committee on a recent amendment to AB 269 addressing concerns regarding the staff's ability to absorb workload related to implementation should it be enacted. The amendment clarifies the Legislature's intent that funds be appropriated from the Dental Auxiliaries fund to support implementation costs. Mr. Baker moved to **support** AB269, Ms. Bache seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AB 973 (Fuller): ROP student fee waiver

The Committee discussed this bill, which would require state agencies to waive certificate, license and examination fees for applicants who are public high school pupils, or have graduated from a public high school within a year, and fulfilled all requirements for the license or certificate by completing a course offered by a regional occupational center or program (ROP). Mr. Baker moved to **oppose** the bill, Ms. Bache seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AB 1025 (Bass): License denial, revocation or suspension

The Committee had previously gone on record **opposing** this bill and Ms. Wallace directed attention to an update report regarding its progress in the Legislature and two letters of opposition Ms. Ware prepared on behalf of the Committee.

SB 1048 and SB 1049 (Senate B&P Committee: Healing Arts)

SB 1048 contained clean-up language submitted by COMDA and the Dental Board to address issues relating to implementation of SB 1546 and SB 1541, which relate to the new RDA specialty licenses. Ms. Ware updated the Committee on SB 1048 amendments, which deleted COMDA language that would remove RDA program and course approval fee exemptions. She suggested that COMDA pursue removal of these exemptions in the new legislative session. Mr. Baker moved to **support** SB 1048, Ms. Forsythe seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

SB 1049, an urgency bill, was pending amendment to include urgent provisions that would postpone implementation of the RDA specialty licenses until January 1, 2010 in order to allow sufficient time for approval of the pending regulations required for their implementation.

Other Legislation of Interest

Ms. Ware briefed the Committee on SB 963 (Ridley-Thomas) which voiced the Legislature's intent to move away from the sunset review process and propose other means for evaluating the efficacy of regulatory boards. Due to the controversial nature of some of its provisions, the bill had become a two-year bill to ensure that there will be sufficient feedback in order to tailor it appropriately.

The committee adjourned for a break at 4:00 PM. and reconvened at 4:10 PM.

10. Regulations

Ms. Wallace updated the Committee on the regulations proposed to implement SB 1546, SB 1541 and related bills re dental assisting scopes of practice, new programs and courses. She noted that the DBC would be continuing discussion on the proposed regulations at their upcoming meeting.

LaVonne Powell, legal counsel, reported on proposed revisions to Section 1079.2 of the regulations dealing with the clinical practice requirement for licensure of Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice. Ms. Powell reported progress on the regulations and urged everyone who has the regulations and forms to provide input to the DBC.

11. Future agenda items and issues of interest

The following agenda items were identified:

- Possible regulations to address approval of RDH courses in anesthesia, nitrous oxide and soft tissue curettage.
- Information gathering on scope of practice issues related to teeth whitening procedures.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, November 14, 2007 with the location to be determined. Ms. Wallace announced tentative dates for 2008 Dental Board meetings as follows:

- January 23-25, 2008 - North
- March 5-7, 2008 - South
- May 14-16, 2008 - South
- August 21-22, 2008 - North
- November 5-7, 2008 - South

12. Additional public comments

Jo Ann Galliano of Chabot College requested that an email or memo be sent to all RDH school administrators regarding the RDH schedule and exam filing deadline.

13. Adjournment

The Committee went back into closed session to continue the annual review of the Executive Officer at 4:16 PM and subsequently adjourned after reporting no action.

Prepared by Nichole Johnston
Submitted to the Committee for approval at its November 14, 2007 meeting.

APPROVED:

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Shanda Wallace, RDH
Chairperson, Committee on Dental Auxiliaries